

**Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities
Minutes of March 14, 2006**

Members In Attendance

Keith Willette
Moir Miller
Jerry Berrier
Barbara Smith
Dan Morgado

Excused Members

Loretta Henry

Guest

Mary Iacardi, St. Mary's Church member

The meeting was called to order by Keith Willette at 7:00 pm in Meeting Room A at Town Hall. February 14, 2006 and was seconded by Moira Miller

Town Liason Report

Dan Morgado stated the automated doors for Town Hall have been ordered and will take approximately 5 weeks to be delivered. There haven't been any complaints or inquiries coming in to the Town Manager's office the past month.

Keith Willette inquired about the lowering of counters at Town Hall. Mr. Morgado stated that Bob Cox's department is currently working at Oak Middle school finishing up a project and will complete the lowering of the counters after he is finished with work at Oak Middle.

Bills

None

Member Discussion

Keith Willette hasn't received a reply from the Postmaster Shrewsbury regarding the entrance to the Maple Avenue post office not being accessible. Mr. Willette stated he has left two phone messages to the Postmaster with no response and will now make a visit to the post office and attempt to speak to the Postmaster in person.

Jerry Berrier mentioned that if we continue to receive a 'no response' from the Postmaster than we need to "step up" our efforts in addressing this issue. He suggested that we need to determine if the entrance is a violation of the Architectural Access Board regulations and then proceed with a more formal approach.

Old Business

Mr. Willette stated that he has purchased the TV/VCR for the viewing of the Disability Awareness video that was made last fall. He has also been in contact with UMass and is in the process of scheduling the placement of the video in their Julio Drive facility. He also stated he was following up with SPAC to have the video shown on the local cable channel. Moira Miller suggested having the Disability Awareness video put on Shrewsbury on Demand.

New Business

Mary Iacardi, St. Mary's Church member stated there is a new focus group forming at St. Mary's Church called "Families of Children with Special Health Care Needs." A few of the group's goals would be addressing religious education during Sunday School and respite for families or the availability of volunteers to provide child care services during Sunday Mass while parents and other family members attend church services. A training program that has already been started is a community volunteer program from the children that are preparing to receive Confirmation and need to have community hours as part of their program. Some examples of services are mother's helpers, baby sitting, yard work. Ms. Iacardi also suggested having different forums addressing the needs of families with these "special issues" (ex: 'Raising Special Needs Children and it's effects on families and marriage', raising awareness of the needs for these children to participate in religious services). She has also stated that Wendy O'Neil, also a St. Mary's Church member and Shrewsbury resident has offered to volunteer her expertise as a special education teacher to adapt the curriculum for religious instruction.

Moira Miller suggested also having the Ecumenical Council become involved in facilitating in raising the awareness of this need in all the local churches and moving towards having these children fully included in religious services.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 7:00 pm in Meeting Room A at Town Hall.

Keith Willette motioned to adjourn at 8:00 pm and Moira Miller seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted by
Barbara Smith